

3745

MAY CREEK

Aug 17, 1961

Tributary to: Prairie Creek - Humboldt County

Mouth Location: T, 11N R, 1E Sec. 11 S. W. Quarter - Orick Quad. 1952

Accessibility: May Creek is crossed by Highway 101 $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Orick. A logging road follows the stream for several miles on the north side,

DRAINAGE

May Creek is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and has a drainage area of about 1,200 surface acres. The entire drainage is located in mountainous cut-over redwood forest. The south side of May Creek is being logged at present for second growth redwoods.

The stream has a gradual gradient and the surrounding terrain is relatively flat. Low mountains surround the stream's gradual course.

STREAM CONDITIONS

Physical Profile: May Creek has a relatively flat gradient that flows through a narrow cut-over valley,

Dense brush, trees, and grasses are quite common along the entire stream and in many areas a machete is recommended for easier access.

May Creek had a flow of about 2-3 cfs at its confluence with Prairie Creek. At this point the stream had an average width of 6 feet and a depth of 2 inches.

The bottom of May Creek is characterized by silt, sand, gravel, sandstone and detritus. Decayed logs and wood from logging practices have contributed great quantities of organic material to the stream,

The pool-riffle ratio was estimated at 50:50.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION

Shelter along May Creek is extremely thick in many areas although logging practices have opened small portions. Brush, alder trees, and aquatic weeds are the predominate forms of shelter although logs, pools and undercut banks are also present.

Spawning gravel is available to anadromous fish in many areas although heavy silt and decayed organic materials occur along the entire stream.

Nursery area is available along the stream in sufficient quantity in relationship to the spawning gravel present.

STREAM OBSTRUCTIONS

Log Jams: Thirty log jams were recorded along the stream surveyed. These jams contained an estimated 15,400 cubic feet of material that should be removed. The stream was surveyed to where logging road 130 crosses the stream. The did not allow the completion of the stream survey although it is felt that more survey work is justified on the stream.

Natural Barriers: No natural barriers were observed along the stream surveyed,

Culverts: A 14-16 inch logging road culvert crosses logging road 130 about 1 mile above the mouth.

FISHERIES

Several sticklebacks were observed in May Creek and two small fry were seen that might have been salmonids.

SUMMARY

May Creek is accessible by logging road.

The stream has a drainage area of about 1,200 surface acres and is located in cut-over forest lands.

May Creek had a flow of about 2-3 cfs when surveyed and was about 6 feet wide.

The bottom is characterized by silt, sand, gravel, sandstone, and detritus.

Thirty log jams were recorded along the portion of May Creek surveyed.

Several sticklebacks and two unidentified fish that appeared to be salmonids were observed in May Creek.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Remove existing log jams,

Contact loggers logging along May Creek and caution them about contributing debris to the stream.

Finish walking stream that has not been surveyed,

Surveyed by: Tom Gaumer
Surveyed On: August 17, 1961